

# POINT THREE



The ToCH magazine July 1977 10p





# POINT THREE

Editor : Frank Rice MA MA MBIM  
Designer : Michael F Hill MSTD

Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911). Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

Point Three is available from the Toc H Publications Department, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911). Single copies 10p; 10 or more copies sent to one address 9p each. Annual subscription: £1.20 including postage.

Front cover: Based on a photograph by Andrew Glover taken in 1976 near Criccieth, North Wales. Criccieth is the site of one of the annual holiday camps for deprived Liverpool children, jointly sponsored by Merseyside and Gwynedd Districts.



Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's playschemes to arts festivals and even bird-watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House: the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

# VIEWPOINT

When I was young, it was the fashion to defend the amateur and attack the professional. Men argued that our top civil servants were the best in the world; that, because they were good honours graduates, they had 'trained minds' and could move among the Departments of State with grace and ease — Foreign Office this week and Education the week after next. Ministers of the Crown could happily be shuffled at will: if Jones did a good job at Ag and Fish, clearly he was just the chap to run the Royal Navy. It used to be said with pride that the Bombay tramways had an unrivalled record of success because their general manager was always a classics man from Oxford who had never been on a tram. I confess that when I was young I mocked this view.

The pendulum, alas, has swung and we have been living through an age in which the professional — the expert — has been our oracle. Expert priests have written so much about prayer that many of us are afraid to try it for ourselves. Management has become a science and schools of management have sprung up everywhere. Expert planners have designed our towns. We are surrounded by trained social workers, professional trade union negotiators, work study experts to tell lathe operators and housewives how to do their work, educationalists who have cajoled or frightened teachers into believing they don't know their job, economists to tell governments how to solve their problems, and so on.

Each of these expert dominated fields has a dismal record of recent achievement (though they tell us it is not their fault: they blame the 'amateur' politicians for not giving them enough of our money to spend). Perhaps the populists are right and it's time we had our say.

I find it interesting that so many experts are now backtracking. Dr Spock was probably the first really big one to tell us that he had been wrong in nearly

all his public utterances. Recently, the expert consultants who had planned the costly re-shaping of the National Health Service said that it had all been a sad mistake. Suddenly, educationalists have started to see merit in the 3 Rs, the 4 rules and rote learning. Probably no economist is now more suspect than the once infallible Keynes.

To me, the lesson is that experts, like governments and editors, exist to be challenged. They have their value but we must keep them in their place. Their place is to share their specialist knowledge with the folk who do the work, let them test it in the light of their experience and take what is useful while ditching the rest. By definition experts are narrow. Someone once said that they go on learning more and more about less and less until they end by knowing everything about nothing.

We tend to be bemused by the cult of professionalism. Many of our Toc H members underestimate their own abilities and overrate the expertise of staff and qualified social workers. It is sensible to seek advice and support from those who have it to give. But every branch and group has a store of wisdom and experience if only its members can find the confidence to use them and test them in discussion. Only a handful of us speak up and only a few write to and for this journal. That is sad because we have much of value to share with each other. Can't we learn to be less afraid of the experts?

Lord Salisbury, last of the great Victorian statesmen, said: '... you should never trust experts. If you believe the doctors, nothing is wholesome; if you believe the theologians, nothing is innocent; if you believe the soldiers, nothing is safe. They all require their strong wine to be diluted by a very large admixture of insipid common sense'.

FGR

Members accept a four-fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
4. To work for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points — to think fairly.



# COMING EVENTS

The Inner London District are holding a **Jubilee Lakeside Supper Party** at The Holme, Regent's Park, on Saturday 23 July at 6.30 pm for 7 pm. Tickets £2 from Miss C L Gordon, 3B Heathway Court, Finchley Road, London NW3; cheques payable to Toc H please.

\* \* \*

**Poperinge.** Skegg Blanchard will be taking a small weekend party to the Old House, leaving London on 23 September. Further details from Skegg at Wendover (HQ extension 26).

\* \* \*

The Occasional Singers (director John Hull) and the Chelmsford Dancers (choreographer Elizabeth Twistington-Higgins) are presenting a **Jubilee Gala Evening** in London. It will take place in the Golden Lane Theatre (Barbican) on Saturday 1 October at 7.30 pm. There is only limited accommodation so please book early. Tickets (£1.25 each) from the SE Regional Office, 42 Crutched Friars (Tel 01-709 0472).

\* \* \*

Book firmly in your diaries the 1978 August Bank Holiday weekend. We shall be celebrating 20 years of Dor Knap with a mammoth **Toc H National Festival**. The weekend (25 to 27 August) will include folk music, drama, dance, workshops, painting and crafts, with a national and international flavour. Search out talents in your branch, District and Region, sponsor them and bring them along to this great Family gathering. Later, we shall be publishing lists of local places where you can get bed and breakfast and we hope to provide facilities for caravans and campers. All enquiries to John Hull at Wendover.

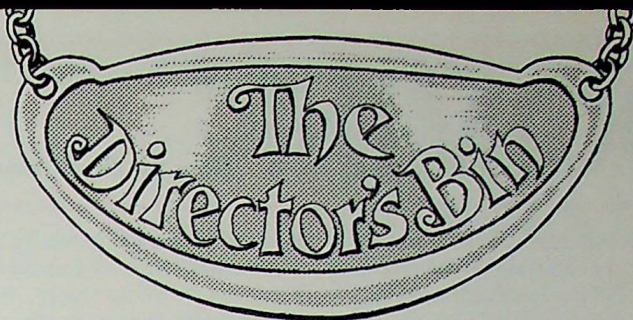
## LOOKING FOR EXTRA CASH ?

How many ways could you spend your branch funds? Choosing is difficult but it would be easier if you had more money to start with.

Get your copy of this new booklet, packed with good ideas. It's called, simply

### FUND RAISING

Price: 20p  
From: Public Relations  
Toc H Headquarters  
1 Forest Close  
Wendover, Aylesbury  
Bucks HP22 6BT



Ken Prideaux-Brune



The Winant and Clayton Volunteers played such a central part in my life for so long that I naturally retain a very special interest in the programme. The committee has rightly decided that the time has come to think seriously about whether the programme should continue in its present form. Can we find some way of ensuring that the American volunteers receive rather more help than at present in thinking through the impact of their summer's experience on their lives back home? Ought we to try and reduce the proportion of British volunteers who are 'budding professionals' and who see the programme as part of their training for a career in social work, teaching or the Ministry? Might a valuable new dimension be given to the programme by developing a kind of 'twin town' concept?

A major conference of those who have been to America as Clayton Volunteers, will be held in September to discuss these issues. I was glad to be asked to take the chair at this gathering, convention or whatever it is finally called, and this month saw the first of what will no doubt be a considerable number of meetings to plan this important event.

\* \* \*

The importance of getting across to as many people as possible the work we do and the ideals for which we stand is increasingly recognised. Toc H publicity must inevitably be largely local publicity and close co-operation between the membership in the field and the PR Department at Wendover is obviously essential. The prime responsibility for publicity can only rest on branches and Districts. The PR Department can't do the job for you. It can, however, supply ideas and material

which will enable you to do the job effectively. The first meeting of the Public Relations Advisory Group this month leads me to hope that this group will become a lively forum for a two-way exchange of ideas between the Regions and Wendover and may thus help us all to find ways of conveying to others our own excitement about Toc H.

\* \* \*

The most exciting afternoon of the month was spent in a preliminary discussion of plans for a National Festival at Dor Knap over the August Bank Holiday weekend in 1978. We hope to attract a wide variety of performers from all over the country, so please start thinking now about groups of a high standard whom your District could sponsor for the weekend. With every kind of music, from folk songs to madrigals, from country dancing to ballet, from brass band concerts to classical quartets; with exhibitions of painting and crafts; with Shakespeare's 'Merry Wives of Windsor' and a Saturday night barbecue; with the whole event summed up in an open air Eucharist on the Sunday evening — with all this and more the weekend should be a demonstration of the 'Whoops Factor' of which John Hull spoke at last year's Council. And it is a positive response to the request by some young members for a national get-together, to which I referred in this column last month.

\* \* \*

One of the most challenging and helpful of the many bits of paper which cross my desk is the monthly Newsletter of the Church Missionary Society. How about this, from the current issue, as a description of the role of any individual or group which accepts any position of leadership within Toc H? 'Their whole task will be to strengthen the initiatives of little local groups . . . and to provide resources for them. They will enable the groups to grow and at the same time help them not to become narrow or parochial. They will help to keep alive the provisional character of the group boundaries, a reminder that they are only the beginning of the potential ingathering of all mankind . . . The whole test of the central source, be it a person or a group, will lie in its value and availability to the groups.'



# DOMINIC

by Jean Anderton

My son-in-law and I collected Dominic from hospital at 8.30 am on the morning of 13 June 1975. He was sitting in an armchair looking beautiful. He was wearing a new T-shirt — specially bought for the 'holiday' — maroon-coloured trousers and socks and shoes with the Union Jack on which he was very fond of. As we walked into the ward, he gave us a smile that stretched from ear to ear, and I knew he was thinking 'This is it — we're off again to see Our Lady of Lourdes'.

Dominic had no speech but knew everything you said to him, and over the years he and I had built up our own means of communication. We had been to Lourdes on five previous occasions but this visit was special because we were going for a whole week and were going to stay at Hosanna House. Our previous visits had been with the All-Night Vigil Group and he had been strong enough then to do the journey that way.

The visit was special for me too because I had reached a cross-road in my life and wanted spiritual guidance to show me what to do.

Ricky (my son-in-law) drove us from Margate to Gatwick and then deposited us with two young seminarians who were already there. They introduced themselves as Brother Dan from the States and Brother John from Cardiff. Gradually, the other members of our group arrived and eventually the formalities were gone through. We made for the aircraft and were off. Dom stood up to the journey fantastically well and was so obviously happy to be back with 'Our Lady of Lourdes'.

Hosanna House was wonderful. Up in the mountains at Bartres. Immediately it was home and we were a family. We found we could all talk to each other about our hopes — our fears. We laughed together — and sometimes we cried together. Everyone helped everyone else. (Why can't the world be like this?) But all the time, consciously or unconsciously, I was praying for guidance for myself.

On Tuesday 17 June, Dominic wasn't too well, and our Spiritual Director, Father John Morris from Plumstead, thought we ought to have a doctor in to see him. Doctor B J Soubirous eventually arrived — prescribed an antibiotic for him and suggested he stay in bed for the whole of Tuesday and also Wednesday. This was a disappointment as an outing to Gavarnie had been planned for Tuesday afternoon — but the others went off and Dominic and I spent a quietly happy afternoon together, choosing cards to send to our family at home, looking at the sun on the Pyrenees. I read and thought. I thought a lot.

The rest of the Hosanna House family arrived noisily back and poured into our room to tell us about their outing. Some of them had had pony rides and showed Dominic pictures to prove it. (Rodney and John looked ridiculous. Had either of you ever ridden before?)

On Wednesday, it had been planned for the 'Mums' to have a free day to go into Lourdes and do their shopping while the helpers looked after our children at Hosanna House. We were going to go back for lunch — but the 'family' had conspired to give me a day out as I had missed the outing the previous day. Brother John

'chaperoned' me. We spent some time wandering around the streets of Lourdes. We went to the Church where St Bernardette made her first communion.

Then while we were sitting outside a cafe near Rosary Square, I suddenly said to John, 'I know what I want to do, I want to have a house that can be a holiday/rest home for parents with handicapped children. Somewhere near the sea, near the shops, on a bus route. I know the house I want and I know what I'm going to call it'. Amazingly, he didn't even show any surprise. He just asked me what I was going to call it. I said 'I'm going to call it Lourdes House. We'll paint the outside blue and white. Fathers can come as well as mothers, and they can go out together in the evenings while I baby sit, and they'll talk to me because I understand. Dominic has taught me that'. After that I went and sat at the Grotto. John went to the Baths. We were joined by others of our Hosanna House family and joined in the procession of the Blessed Sacrament. We went back to Hosanna House. Dominic was pleased with the things I had bought for our family at home. I spent the evening with him in our room.

On Thursday he was no better. Father Morris and Nurse Ellen both decided the doctor ought to see him again. Doctor Soubirous came again and advised an injection of valium and another one the next day to help him on the journey home. Father Morris anointed him, and we prayed. Ellen, Jennifer, Teresa, Anne, Maria, Rod, Colin, David, Dan and John — how we prayed.

Early on Friday morning I phoned my son-in-law in England to try to get an ambulance standing by for us at Gatwick. The journey home was awful, we had to get him to Tarbes Airport by ambulance. There was a doctor with him all the way. Thank you, doctor, whoever you were. Dear Ellen never left him either. Ricky



Dominic aged five



Dominic a few days before his death



was at Gatwick. It had been near impossible to organise an ambulance, so he'd made up a bed in the back of his car. We got Dominic back to hospital. I left him at 11 pm. When I phoned at midnight he was resting. At 6 am on Saturday morning I phoned again. He'd had a 'reasonable' night, but was getting restless. At 9.30 am I went to him. I stayed with him all day and through the night. He died at 8.45 am on Sunday, 22 June, 1975. We were holding hands and looking at each other. I had had him for 15 years, 9 months.

## Editor's Note

Dominic was the fifth of Jean Anderton's six children. He had athetoid cerebral palsy. He was unable to walk, talk, feed himself or sit unaided. He was epileptic and doubly incontinent. Jean (who is fully qualified in child care) not only brought up Dominic with her other children but also ran a small nursery school in which places were always reserved for the handicapped children she loves and who respond to her. Now she is determined to devote the rest of her active life to helping other families to cope with the stresses she knows so well by enabling them to have relaxed holidays *together*.

Jean's dream is about to be realised. Lourdes House (Thanet) Trust has been registered as a charity and exactly the right house has been found on the sea front at Westgate. With little more than a third of the purchase price raised, the trustees have taken the plunge in faith and hope to open the house during June this year. Jean will be house mother and will take three families at a time into a warm, relaxed, loving atmosphere. The house will be open all the year round, for stress knows no season. Jean will welcome any family with handicapped children regardless of race, colour or creed.

When the Thanet Toc H District chairman, Fred Cooper, and I visited Jean and her associates recently, they asked us only to spread the good news of their venture and to pray for their work. Donations (including Green Shield stamps) should be sent to the Hon Treasurer, 'Dominic Anderton Memorial Fund', c/o 69 Royal Esplanade, Westgate on Sea, Kent.

## TOC H AND THE SERVICES

Keith Rea, Commissioner for Toc H clubs in BAOR, speaking on the last Topic on Tape programme 'Ace of Clubs' mentioned that branches could gain a lot by making contact with nearby army establishments. Several letters have been received asking how this should be done and Keith writes, '... there should be no problem in contacting local garrisons. These are permanent and troops move in



Guy Brinkworth SJ

Some of these meditations have already appeared in 'The Catholic Herald'.

### THE DANDELION AND THE CANA MIRACLE

Often and eagerly I look through that window to watch the slow but steady growth of my little seeds planted below. As the summer reaches its zenith they grow into fine marrows, beetroots, leeks and onions and the great annual miracle takes place before my impatient eyes.

I know that scientists have unravelled the secrets of 'the double helix' of DNA molecules within the chromosomes and are proudly heading for the dangerous field of genetic engineering. With high infinite dedication and patience not unmixed with earthly ambition the incredibly intricate sub microscopic structures of the *mechanics* of the organisation of vital growth is being mapped out — the 'genetic codes' or blue prints of living organisms become less recondite every month. But is it not typical of this world and age that the *mechanism* appears to be the be all and end all? The vital urge, the nature of life itself, the wonder and mystery of God's sharing of His own uncreated life with His creatures, that unceasing miracle, tends to be discarded, ignored or forgotten. Or is it familiarity which breeds contempt? It is the 'zeitgeist', the 'magnot' line mentality: too much preoccupation and obsession with mechanism and structures at the expense of a dereliction or loss of the spirit and the heart. As I gaze out of the window I find myself asking whether this imbalance and 'tarnish' of the world has not

infiltrated somewhat into our own spiritual lives, our 'renewal', our Church. I recall the moving lines of that massive mind of 'GKC'.

'Through what fierce incarnation hurled

In fire and darkness did I go?  
Ere I was worthy in the world,  
To see a dandelion grow.  
Tell me what is in the heart,  
Of the smallest of the seeds,  
God Almighty and with Him,  
Cherubim and Seraphim ...'

I planted, and together with His rain I watered, but God is giving the increase. And it reminds me of that passage in one of the great sermons of St Augustine in which the saint pointed out that the miracle of Cana takes place in every vineyard. Except that in my 'vineyard' last summer it was washing up water which was changed into marrows and pumpkins! And this gigantic miracle goes on not only in my little patch but ubiquitously and unceasingly through the geological millions of years. And I take it all for granted. I talk glibly about it all, but find myself so forgetful in my pursuit of profit and self-aggrandisement of this great Providence of Love which even in a deserved curse could give us a marvel of marvels. 'By the sweat of thy brow ...'. The incredible beauty of the single fragile dandelion seed drilling its tough tap root a full spit into the ground, its glorious cluster of so perfect golden flowerets we so condemn, even its sharp salad flavour — its pleasing wine!

But rarely a word of thanks, let alone a warm grateful heart! Dear Lord: mechanisms and structures we must have and know: but why must I forget the unwearying creative Love within us all?

and out. There is always a Garrison Commander, to whom contact should first be made, before being passed down the line to the officer dealing with civilian liaison'. Similar approaches, of course, can be made to RAF stations and RN shore bases. *Point Three* will be interested to know about any new relationships that come through this useful idea.



# NEWSPOINT

# WELCOME

The following branches elected new members during May:

- 7 - Warrington and District Youth Action (j) Group
- 6 - Stockton (j) Group
- 5 - Aquarius (Warrington) (j) Group
- 4 - Kendal (j)
- 3 - Guisborough (w), Huddersfield Youth Action (j) Group, Northants District, Pocklington (w)
- 2 - Bingham (m), Burraton (m), Eastfield (j) Group, Norwich (j), Ross-on-Wye (j), Sandown (j), Strode Park and Herne (j)
- 1 - Accrington (j), Allestree (w), Bishop's Castle (j), Bognor Regis (w), Budleigh Salterton (m), Central Overseas, Cheltenham (m), Cirencester (m), Clevedon (j), Crossfields Estate Group (j), Croydon (j), Deal and Walmer (j), Dittons (j), Eastleigh (j), Eltham (j), Highams Park (j), Iford (j) Group, Leeds District, Loughborough (j), Manchester Central (m), St Johns (Tunbridge Wells) (w), Skegness (w), West Central (w), Wigmore (w).

A warm welcome to 72 new members

Photo: Longley Times



The presentation to Clayton House, the Toc H residential centre in Crawley New Town (see February Point Three) of a table lectern for the Conference Room. The picture was taken in the Apprentices Joinery Shop of James Longley Ltd. Longley apprentices have already helped

with work in the house and will be heavily involved in the extension programme. The lectern was made by Graham Taylor and Colin Ashton. The proud brown coated gentleman looking on is joinery instructor and Toc H member David Smith.

For 20 years Lowestoft, Suffolk, Branch has run a free wheelchair service in the town for local residents temporarily immobilised by injury. Sadly, with the retirement through ill health of 70 year old former branch chairman Maurice Evans, the branch has been forced to give up this work: it has been taken over by Lowestoft's 'Links Club'. Despite his own muscular dystrophy, Maurice has maintained for all those years a seven day week and 18 hour day service. The branch's more than 30 folding wheelchairs have been stored in Maurice's garage with an overflow in the homes of other members. No charge has been made to the 600 people who have used these chairs, though all borrowers are asked to contribute small sums to a repairs fund. We all offer our warmest congratulations to Maurice for this long, unstinted service.

## Many Happy Returns

Ilford (Women's) Branch has just celebrated its 50th birthday with a service conducted by the branch padre followed by a social evening. Branch members were joined by the town's deputy mayor and mayoress and some 70 friends and past members, some of them travelling considerable distances. The birthday cake was cut by Lilian Cumming who joined the branch 45 years ago!

Photo: Lowestoft Journal





# TALKING POINT

## WHAT IS TOC H ?

Connie Tate

In nearly 25 years' membership, Connie has held branch office and served on Regional Executive and Central Council – currently she is chairman of the Merseyside District Executive. Her friends wonder how she finds time and energy to run her home, work full time with the YMCA and yet give so much to our Movement.

It is difficult to explain what Toc H means to me, but for a great part of my life it has been there. From my first introduction to it at a guest night until this day, it has been something special.

It all began for me in the Toc H Women's Association and we women thought we had something very good. We worked and played together and hoped

that we were contributing in some small way toward a better fellowship with each other. The Movement became integrated and the Toc H we know today was born. Nothing has been lost and the gains have been manifold. I personally have found nothing but kindness from the men with whom I have worked. We have passed through the days of Area Councils and District Teams to Regionalisation and the setting up of District Executive Committees. I cannot say that I have always found it a satisfactory transition, since the changes should not alter the things we most value – our personal relationships.

Members rightly complain of failures of communication and the fault lies with each of us. We produce our news letters for members and friends and make every effort to keep in touch at District meetings and social functions. It still seems that some feel deprived of contacts, and the filtering of news and information from the Region is perhaps a flaw in the set up. I don't think we have ever made full use of the Central Councillors and I have said so on many occasions. They are the most valuable link in the chain from headquarters to the members at District and branch level. We call ourselves a car-

ing organisation and so we are. We must be careful, however, about whom we care. Should we not begin with each other? We as lay people should care for the staff and they in turn should be concerned for every member, and so we grow in our fellowship.

Thank God we are seeing the young coming in as active members. They need our guidance and interest, and my concern is that they should see what Toc H means to us in order that their lives are enriched by it, as was ours. Make no mistake about it, we are God given as a movement. This has been God's purpose working in men. If we cling to this underlying truth in all that we do, then changes of structure and administration will come and go but nothing will separate us from the meaning of our way of life in Toc H.

I still find it very difficult to give a talk to an outside group and impart just what Toc H is and means to me. But, if I remember what Tubby Clayton once said in a sermon, that 'Toc H existed to take its tiny share in spreading Christianity on weekdays by methods which are homely and informal', then we have nothing to fear since we have the best motive for what we do – God is on our side.



Photo: Ted Mountain

Thanks to Saltford, Avon, Toc H the Clara Jeffreys ward of Keynsham Hospital now has its own stereo record player. It was presented in memory of the late Ken Chivers, a founder member of the local Toc H Branch. Mary Edwards, Saltford (joint) Branch chairman and member of the Central Executive Committee hands over the gift to ward sister Mrs Pamela Porter.

## BOOK REVIEW

INTO THE NEW AGE  
by Stephen Verney  
Fontana – Price 65p

In April I suggested that 'there is a recognisable world-wide movement of the Spirit' and that a new kind of society was struggling to be born. This is the theme of a paperback by Canon Stephen Verney of St George's, Windsor.

We live in an age in which old certainties have been swept away. Our world is menaced by over population, pollution, poverty and violence. We may well be heading for the end of civilisation as we have known it, and, indeed, the end of the human race itself. Or it may be that out of the death of the old order a new and higher order will be born. Here and there small groups of people have begun to discover some of the marks of such a new society.

First and foremost among them is the realisation of our interdependence. Other signs are the growing interest in contemplation and the rediscovery of 'the creative power of the group'. Canon Verney's chapter on the nature of group existence seems to me essential reading for any branch that is seriously concerned

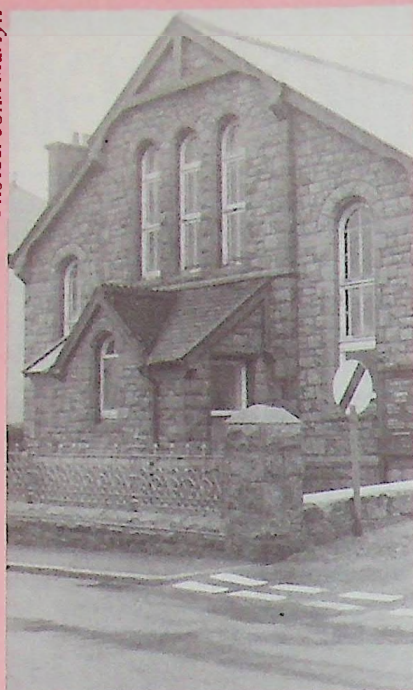
to think about the deep purpose for its existence. The group is the place 'where people may come to know themselves as they interact with other people... In this process of learning we are discovering a new depth and freedom in human relations.'

The third sign of the new era to which Canon Verney points is the development of community work, 'by which a community is encouraged to express its own needs, and to develop from within itself the resources to meet them...'

I am convinced of the rightness, and the importance, of Canon Verney's basic thesis. The evidence increasingly suggests that the reason that 'God so wonderfully made Toc H' is in order that this Movement might become one of the channels through which people can discover the life of the new age. Canon Verney writes of deep things simply and directly. The study of this short book will help us to measure up more adequately to our high calling.

Ken Prideaux-Brune





*The 'shell'*

Sorry to disappoint you but this is not a ghost story! It just tells the tale of a handful of people planning, building and now running an unusual hostel: a short stay centre in Princetown for families visiting Dartmoor prisoners.

Thousands of tourists know Dartmoor as an area renowned for its solitary beauty. It is one of the highest areas in England south of the Peak District, rising at Princetown to almost 2000 feet. It is very remote — often cut off during the winter months for weeks at a time by fog and snow. There is no longer any public transport. And this is the setting of Dartmoor Prison — a prison with a reputation which produces tension and anxiety amongst wives and relations planning their first visit.

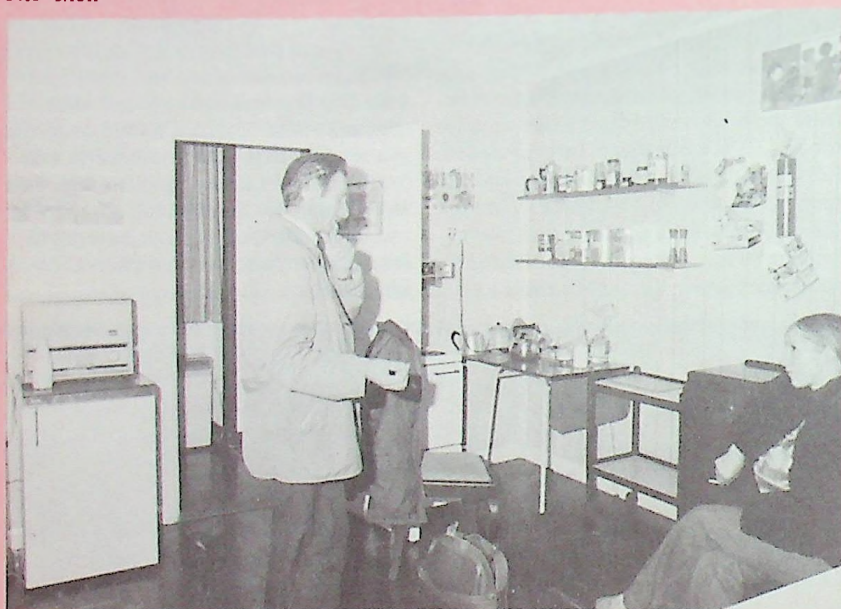
# A Night on the

Concern for this family situation led the prison's welfare department to invite interested local people to find a site for a hostel to accommodate those who visit the prison. The local Methodist Church was eventually given to us and this generous gesture enabled the idea to become a reality. Grants were obtained from the Home Office. The senior prison welfare officer was very much in the midst of the negotiation and effort required to create the hostel, not only concerning himself with the fabric of the building but also with the creation of an atmosphere acceptable to those who would be able to use the hostel. From the outset, emphasis was placed on enlisting the voluntary help of local people. A principal prison officer (construction) designed the conversion and organised other officers and tradesmen to build the hostel within the shell of the old chapel.

People in the immediate area were worried at first so it is not surprising that the hostel idea did not receive wholehearted local approval. To some extent this concern was overcome during the process of gutting and converting the church to form the overnight centre. Thanks to individuals, voluntary groups, churches and statutory bodies the hostel was ready for use by July 1974.

Although austere from the outside, the hostel within has a warm and friendly atmosphere. Five families can be accommodated at any one time in what is at present a single storey within the larger structure. There are already a fully equipped kitchen, lounge, toilet and bathrooms.

The housekeeper, who is a probation ancillary, provides for the effective running of the hostel in an informal and unstructured manner. Since she lives in, the sharing of the kitchen or watching TV in the lounge provides a natural contact with visitors. There are few rules and visitors are able to offer one another support and encouragement, whilst the housekeeper is able to give unobtrusive advice and guidance. At the same time she forms a link between the hostel and the prison authorities through the prison welfare department. Although families can have private bedrooms, the sharing of other amenities has built up a strong self help element amongst the wives who visit. The hostel does much to dispel the tensions associated with visiting Dartmoor for the first time and enables a rapid breakthrough of the barriers of fear, isolation and prejudice. The resulting contact and friendships developed would not be possible if conventional bed and breakfast



*Kitchen/dining room*



*Family bedroom*



# e 'Moor'

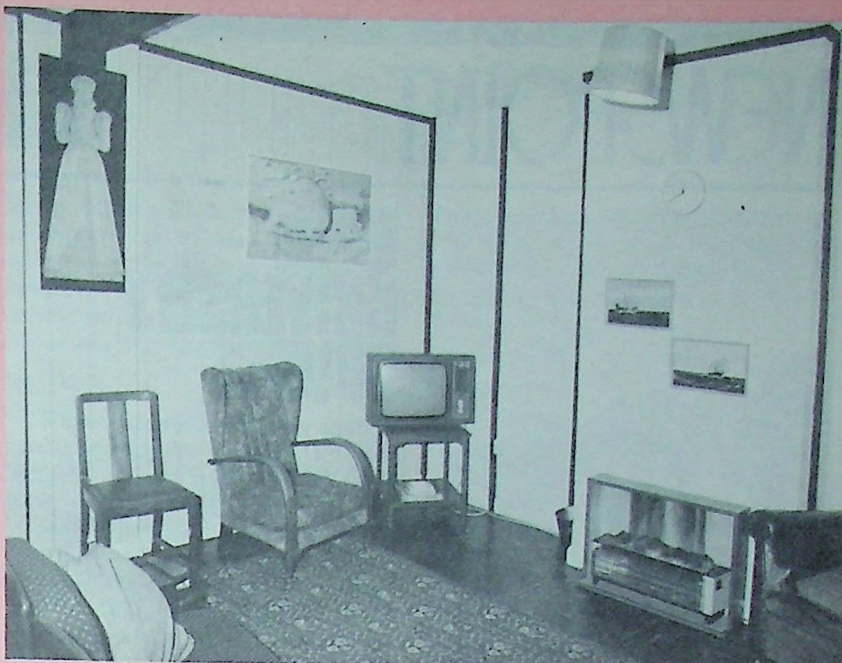
by Trevor Sizer

situations were all that could be provided. These relationships are now developing and many of those using the hostel meet socially and travel to and from visits together. It is already clear that the ability to relax and acclimatise in the hostel prior to a visit in the prison is beneficial. Visits for both inmate and visitors, particularly children, are now easier and happier.

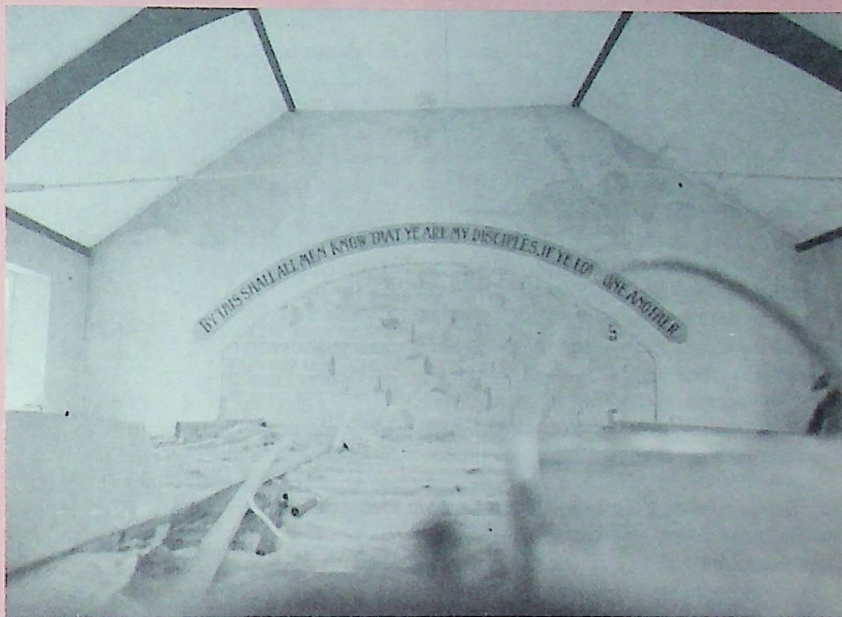
The role of the housekeeper is crucial. It is she who is responsible for ensuring with the prison's welfare department, that the hostel's function is developed. So far, this co-operation is showing some welcome success and many visitors can now look on a visit to the hostel as a short holiday and a welcome break from the routine of normal home life. Most newcomers are pleasantly surprised at the homeliness of the hostel and very much more willing to make subsequent visits.

The hostel is now entering its third year. Although primarily an accommodation centre, it also provides a situation within which much constructive work can be started to help rehabilitate the men with their families upon release. This role is carried out by offering support and friendship as well as insight and expertise in an atmosphere which is not stifled with authority and professionalism.

Much of the emphasis in operating the hostel has been on the volunteer. The committee is composed of individual volunteers or representatives of voluntary organisations; many of the hostel's support roles are undertaken by volunteers. Last year, a concerted effort was made to set up a volunteer scheme which would enable the hostel to be open for a seven day week. A meeting was convened and the number coming forward from the local Gingerbread group and probation volunteers suggested that such a scheme could be tried. Operating with volunteers also meant that the housekeeper could have some free time. The hostel committee (which includes three Toc H members) asked the local Toc H staff member to co-ordinate this volunteer scheme. It worked well but we soon realised that there were too few volunteers to cope with the growing demand. An article in the local press asked for more and the response has been so good that we are now able to pre-arrange a rota for two months in advance. It is interesting to note that these volunteers see themselves very much as a group and have asked for regular group meetings to be arranged. Thinking is now going beyond acting as weekend volunteers and they want to play a part in the whole range of the



*Lounge*



*Ripe for conversion*

hostel's work. They all live within a 16 mile radius of Princetown so that they can readily be contacted and can all reach the hostel without too much difficulty. When on duty the volunteer has a back up team available who can be reached by phone though in the two and a half years of running a probation officer has been called in only twice.

Manning the hostel means giving top priority to maintaining the friendly atmosphere. Some visitors need to talk about their problems and the volunteer has to adopt a natural but sensitive approach to this. Others would wish to be left alone and no visitor is ever forced into conversation. The more routine duties include taking any payments for visits, keeping a check on the food supplies and tidying up as required.

The hostel now fulfils an essential role in

the running of Dartmoor Prison and fully justifies the effort and money put into it. Total running costs have been only some £2,500 a year.

As with most successful schemes there is already a need to consider expansion. Plans are in hand to provide a separate bedsitter for the housekeeper in a second storey which will also contain a children's playroom. (There is very little space around the hostel for play.) Plans are at present being drawn up in conjunction with the Home Office and it is hoped that some central finance may be forthcoming.

During the first year, the hostel put up 227 visitors, a very high proportion of them being mothers with children. We all feel that we are in at the start of a big and exciting new venture. It's very far from being a 'ghost' story: it's real and it's about life!



# NEWSPOINT

# OBITUARY

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In December: C Sibley Elliott (Melbourne)  
 In January: George Guild (Coupar Angus)  
 In March: Mabel Munden (Walton)  
 In April: Marjorie Bellamy (Brighton), John Childs (Eastbourne), Ada Clark (Corsham), E M 'Cis' Connelly (Edgbaston), Robert B Domony (Dalton in Furness), Jack Harris (St Thomas, Exeter), Bernard T Hughes (Wednesfield), Beatrice S G Jackson (Malvern), William Lee-Praed (Kennington, London), Margaret L Rawlings (Melton Mowbray), Jean Stapleford (Melton Mowbray), Winnifred E H Wild (Trimlby)  
 In May: Constance W Brown (Wessex District), Edith A E Jones (Hereford), Ivy H Pyne (Woking) Ronald H Williams (Clacton)

We regret to announce the death on 1 May of **Con Brown**. Con was known — particularly to our women members — for the conscientious and methodical way she approached all her tasks. She volunteered to become the first Toc H warden of Alison House and, seeing this as just another service, had to be pressed to accept even a very small salary. During her wardenship, she and her husband Percy, who shared her love of gardens and countryside, made many friends in the Cromford area.

MB

We give thanks for their lives.

## OPEN UNIVERSITY COURSE

The one year Open University course Industrial Relations will again be offered in the 1978 Associate Student programme.

The course provides a good general grounding in the subject and is linked through a series of assignments and case studies to the student's knowledge of particular areas of industrial relations. It examines some of the more important issues which will continue to face management and trade unions into the 1980s.

The course is composed of correspondence texts, tutorials, student assignments, radio and television programmes and an optional exam.

The Associate Student programme is designed to meet the needs of adult students from widely varying educational backgrounds who wish to broaden their educational experience. No formal educational qualifications are required for the course and like all Open University courses teaching is carried out through correspondence texts, back up by television and radio programmes.

The application period for Associate Student courses is from April to mid October and applicants should apply to the Associate Student Central Office, The Open University, PO Box 76, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA.



Photo: Scott Shaw

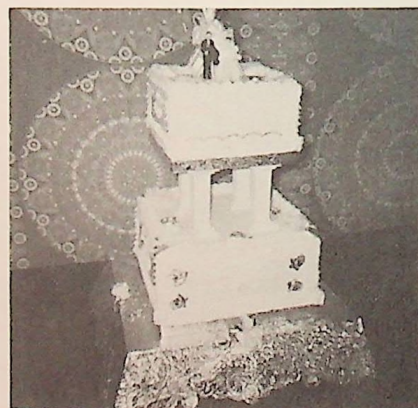
First get your wellie . . . The Deputy Mayor of Hackney, Councillor Ted Claridge, setting the standard for the wellie throwing tournament at the Toc H Sports in May. Besides 'silly games' like egg and spoon and three-legged races, there were also serious athletic events, in which the ladies were also represented. Competition was strong and standards high. The highlight was Mark 20's victory over Mark 7 in the tug of war. (No prizes for guessing the name of Mark 20's anchor man!)

## A SECOND WEDDING IN THE FAMILY

On 30 March a wedding reception was held at Mark 24 Liverpool for Kurt McConnie from the Windward Islands and Marie Nadal from Mauritius — the second couple to meet as Gladstone House residents and then have their marriage celebrated by the House Padre. The marriage took place in the local parish church of St Michael's with Rev Lister Tonge (House Padre) performing the ceremony and Rev Sam Pratt (Vicar) leading the prayers. Kurt and Marie have moved to London and plan to continue their Toc H work there.



L to R: Rev Sam Pratt, bride and groom, Rev Lister Tonge, bridesmaid Nicky Nadal (Marie's sister).



Photos: Alec Wood

The wedding cake, iced and decorated by Hon Warden Alec Wood. Alec assured us that, though he made the stand from scrap polystyrene and silver doilies, the icing was real!

Footnote: The previous Gladstone House wedding (August 1975) was between Ashok Shah and Elaine Trewin. They now live in Runcorn and have linked up with the local Toc H youth action group.



# YOUR LETTERS

## THE FOURTH POINT

Today all facets and manifestations of the Christian faith appear to be characterised by that branch of theology known as Apologetics. Christians by their cornered defensive attitude bore potential believers away from belief. There has been for some time, therefore, a need for a dynamic approach to faith. Tubby and his Christian friends restored energy and adventure to the Christian message in an organisation 'blessed' with the strange name Toc H.

Instead of preaching the Gospel at or to people who were in many cases unprepared to have news, good or otherwise, rammed down their throats, these people tried, quietly, to live the Christian life. The example so given proved the validity of Christianity. The words came later, when they were asked for.

Mistakes were, of course, made and some of the early paternalistic methods of the Movement seem grotesque today. To its great credit, however, the Movement has been prepared to recognise its errors. Similarly, members have, in the main, grown and changed with a changing society. Toc H, in spite of its awkward name and image, is as valid today as it was at its inception.

Because of its shared faith, the doors of the Movement have always been open to the non believer. They needed to be open for it is the non believer in Christianity that we want inside the doors. Once he is in we do not throw a complex rule book at him and ask him to sign on the dotted line. At least we should not do so. Rather we demonstrate our beliefs by our life style. When our new friend asks to see the rules we show him the Four Points of the Compass and the Main Resolution.

We do not, even when our friend asks to join, expect him to be a convinced Christian. If we are honest we must admit that the only completely convinced Christian that we know of is Christ. The rest of us are, at the most, Christian agnostics seeking the truth. We cannot differentiate between degrees of agnosticism so we welcome all agnostics to join us in the search. We remember that Jesus said, 'Seek and you will find' and so we go on searching. There may be many other valid lines of research but we recognise the futility of trying to travel two routes at the same time. Thus we restrict ourselves to the Christian way. The atheist will not want to join our search; he does not believe that our goal exists.

There is, therefore, no question of other teachings being more or less valid than those of Christ. We accept the discipline of following one course to its con-

clusion. As human beings we can appraise the advance made by others in their faiths and rejoice at their success. We recognise, though, our human limitations and accept that he who sets off in all directions at once arrives where he started!

**Roy Tindle**  
*London*

I was delighted to see that in the May Letters the question of 'Christians' and 'non-Christians' as members of Toc H had been brought into the open. I have felt for some time that this is one topic we tend all too often to avoid discussing to the extent it truly deserves.

Toc H maintains that 'there is no credal test for membership', and yet as members of the Movement we must accept the following aims:

'by their example to challenge their neighbours to seek the way of Christ' (Point 2).

'to practise the Christian way of life' (Point 4).

'To listen now and always for the voice of God' and 'to know His Will revealed in Christ . . .' (Main Resolution).

'The aims and objects of Toc H shall be: to advance the Christian religion . . .' (Royal Charter, p2 para 3).

There may be no credal test as such but the above four examples seem to suggest that 'only committed Christians need apply'. Also, to an interested enquirer, whether in the street or on the Clapham omnibus, there would seem to be a lack of certainty in Toc H on this question and they could be inclined to some doubts as to whether or not we know just what we're about . . . and if we don't, who does?

I am a member of Toc H. I do not classify myself as a Christian because I cannot accept the statement attributed to Jesus in John 14 v 6 that 'no-one comes to the Father except by me'. I have yet to find anything else in Christ's teachings I cannot accept, but this seems to me due to the fact that by accepting this statement I would by implication be denying the relative validity of teachers such as the Buddha, Confucius, Guru Nanak, Zoroaster, Mohammed, Lao Tse and the like. I do not feel qualified to judge which of the 'prophets' was the most divinely favoured, nor do I feel that Toc H should judge this. If we are to accept that we have no credal test for membership, then we must also not structure the Movement in such a way that it is easier for Christians to feel able to join than non-Christians. I would suggest that the four examples I have given show just such a bias in our structure, and would like to see this bias removed, so that

Toc H can be not 'all things to all men', but 'the same thing to all men'; accepting that they may choose to label their faiths by names which differ, but not attempting to decide whether these differences matter to God.

**Ralph Doak**  
*London*

## 'THE PLAIN FACTS'

I have just been reading the new publicity handout, 'Plain Facts'.

I was proposing to hand one to an enquirer when I chanced to look at the opening phrase ie 'Large Christian based voluntary social service movement'. Since when did this description of Toc H pass? Alec Churcher in 'Stirring the Mixture' says 'Toc H does not exist to perform social service but to practise friendship'.

I suppose in common with all the original ideals this is now considered 'fuddy duddy' and should be weeded out. I would like to know where all these alterations came from. It is on a par with the dropping of the branch pilot from the annual return of branch officers. Who authorised that? I always understood him to be the most important officer of the branch.

Over the past few years we have already seen a steady deterioration of standards and principles and are we any better for it? Membership is no longer considered a privilege but a right, probation a dirty word etc etc. It seems that the permissive society has permeated Toc H and not for the better. Can I plead for a return to basic principles and the realisation that perhaps the most important of the Four Points is Point Four which originally asked us to spread the Gospel without preaching it, in other words by example. I suppose I am getting old and it's time to get out and leave all this to someone else but it makes me a little sad at times. Is the time coming to write 'Ichabod' over the door?

**C M Lloyd**  
*Paignton, Devon*

## 'DEMON DRINK'

I would like to use a little of your space to give support to the writer of 'Demon Drink', February edition.

I introduced this matter at our branch meeting and after a discussion lasting 1¼ hours I made the following remarks, ignoring the matter of teetotalism.

1. The audacity of the brewery to offer their sponsorship in return for our advertising their beer.

2. The involvement of the two young



# YOUR LETTERS (cont.)

men to this end when the national press recently stated that the drink problem among young people is growing.

The undersigned join with me in voicing our objection that a journal of such high standing as *Point Three* has been used for such a purpose.

W W Holland, Don Davis, R Garnett, P J Seymour, A E Denning, Arthur Ayres, David Groves, Doug Sobey, S H Smith  
*Toc H Gloucester Branch*

I was amazed to read the letter by Alison Jones in the April issue. Today the world lives under the threat of a nuclear holocaust. Many countries are engaged in horrific wars while many prisons and lunatic asylums hold and torture those who stand for truth and freedom. Nearer home, Northern Ireland is torn apart by murder and hate; thousands still live in some of the worst slum conditions to be found anywhere in Europe and many have no homes at all — and so the list goes on. Surely then, there must be far more important matters to protest about than two enterprising and hard working young people who have used their imaginations and initiative to make some money for the best of causes. Alison Jones may have a point about the dangers of excessive drinking but it is both sad and annoying that she made use of these two fine young men in order to project her views.

If Toc H is to have a future then young folk like Colin and Michael should be given every ounce of encouragement and support possible. They should not be led into believing that they are joining an organisation of narrow minded moaners and fuss pots but a movement of friendly and lively people which Toc H is in the most part.

One only has to read *Point Three* to see how fast youth groups are spreading, and of the wonderful work they are doing, particularly in the North West. It really all began with just three of us and at the time we were really glad to hold our first meeting in a Runcorn pub as there was nowhere else available at the time. Possibly the largest youth group is Warrington and I have no shame in saying that they meet regularly in a country pub. It is quite well known that until the landlord got to know them all and the good work they were doing, he was most displeased by the large amount of space which they took up in comparison to the small amount of drinks purchased, as most don't drink at all.

Further, if Alison Jones was trying to say in her letter that the first everyman's (dry) club was started at Poperinge, then I am afraid that she is wrong. The first everyman's club was started in

Bethlehem where Mary and Joseph must have been grateful to the landlord whose inn was full but who still managed to find accommodation for them in a stable. Perhaps this was why Christ's first miracle was to turn water into wine.

Jim Waltham  
*Warrington, Lancs*

I feel I must reply to Alison Jones. I don't think that anybody could connect Toc H with the problem of youth and drink simply because of one picture on the front cover of one issue. Incidentally, Colin and Michael are both teetotallers and as such I think their effort is to be applauded. Because of their activities and the money they raised, the Warrington youth group were able to donate to us (Crossfield Group) the sum of £50 which is being used to send two children on a holiday in July to Port Penryn: these children would not normally have had a holiday. Our own group activities consist of a weekly junior disco and because of the support we have received from children in the eight to 16 age group, we are now planning a youth cinema club. All our activities are however carried out on pub premises and there is a very good reason for this. When this group was formed we advertised through the local press of two large towns. After several weeks the only reply we had was from a pub. Every Tuesday evening the children gather in the room over the pub to enjoy the disco. Could it be said that we are enticing children to drink when they are of age?

I think not. Despite the fact that we advertised for premises which were ignored, that we had several articles published by the local press accompanied by photographs, all our efforts were in vain and it was made obvious that people who could have helped us chose not to.

Bill Bull  
*Eccles, Lancs*

**This correspondence is now closed  
— Editor**

## 'PROBE'

I was most interested in the last paragraph of Central Council Study Question No 4 in the April issue of *Point Three*.

It would be helpful to know the basis and the evidence for the proposition that: (a) Regionalisation is at present confusing many people and (b) tends to blunt the edge of direction and purpose.

In my view the successful development of the Movement depends on the success or otherwise of regionalisation and if either of the above are true, and frankly I am far from convinced they are, then if

specific and typical evidence is available please let it be advised to the various Regional Executives so they may be helped to overcome these problems insofar as it is in their power to do so.

Confusion arises from a failure of communication. The latter has never been a strong point in our Movement but if people won't read, or listen, or question, one does occasionally wonder how the problem may be solved.

If anyone has the answer I shall be both relieved and delighted.

J Blake  
*Vice-Chairman, SE Region*

## Editor's Note

The 'Probe' series reported the results of discussions held by groups at Central Council, as summarised by the group spokesmen. Perhaps members of this particular group would like to write to Jim Blake (or to us) commenting on the points he raises.

## NEWS FROM ABROAD

I think it is marvellous to travel and establish contacts overseas. It provides the opportunity for people from different countries to get to know one another, it is so enriching for everybody and it brings down many artificial barriers, consisting of prejudices and lack of information.

Personally, I got to know my friends from Sevilla in an IBO workcamp. As I get on very well with them, I have decided to live with their community in Sevilla next year. We share in many ways the same views and the same ideals. They are making a marvellous job in the village where they live, just outside Sevilla. It is a very under developed area, but it is amazing to realise how much the population is getting aware of its needs and its development possibilities. It is most encouraging, as many people are getting involved. There are many movements of young people (here, in Madrid and many other places) who are trying to find a better alternative to the materialistic society by forming communities that put everything in common, economically speaking, and work together in a district or a youth club etc.

In Madrid, where I have been living since October, I have been busy giving French and English lessons and making translations, as I found very little work as an interpreter. It has been very difficult to find social work to do there, but I eventually got involved with gipsies, which I enjoy very much. With a group of students, we are teaching them how to write and read. They are a group of families



# MONEY MATTERS

## WHEN SHALL I DO IT?

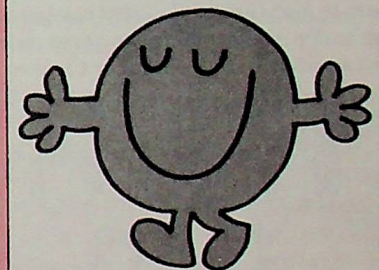
Each year the majority of the contributions to the Family Purse are sent during February and March. I know that when I was a branch treasurer my branch used to look at our financial position in February and then decide how much we would send to 'them'.

'Them' of course are now your Region and we should be budgeting to send to our Region a payment at least each quarter and not leaving it to the end of the year.

I say 'we' as I am also a member of the Movement though not these days a branch treasurer.

At your next branch meeting why not agree how much you are going to send to your Region this year and then send your first payment? I hope you have now heard the current edition of Topic on Tape and that you will have carried out the three tasks I asked you to do! If you have not had the opportunity of hearing it there are still copies available, so why not become a subscribing branch?

George Barnett



Roundies want to be happy.



Squaries want to be rich.

living in small huts in the suburbs, and we teach both grown-ups and children, who don't go to any school. They are marvelous people, they have a way of enjoying life and overcoming their problems which is admirable, and their hospitality and thirst of learning are amazing.

Isabelle Meunier  
Madrid

## Editor's Note

Isabelle spent a year working at the Toc H Croydon Centre.

## MAKE A NOTE

May I draw the attention of readers to the next concert by the Treorchy Male Voice Choir in Chippenham on 8 October at 7pm?

The friendship between the Treorchy Choir and Greathouse Cheshire Home residents started as a result of mini-bus trips organised by Chippenham Branch of Toc H, when residents were able to visit the choir in rehearsals on Sunday afternoons. The friendship grew, and in 1971 the choir first came to Chippenham to sing in a concert sponsored by Toc H, and, as a result of this, the choir adopted a room, known as the 'Ystafell Cor Meibion Treorci'. Despite numerous demands on the choir, they have consented to come to Chippenham for the fourth time. This time the proceeds will be given towards the Greathouse extensions fund.

Greathouse is one of the oldest established of the Leonard Cheshire Foundation Homes, having been opened in 1959. The residents live in multi-bedded rooms, and this lack of privacy is proving to be a drawback in the development of the home. Over the years some improvements have been made, by reducing the numbers of residents in some bedrooms to two persons, and two of the first to benefit were two of the older residents, Toc H members Aileen and Stanley Stilwell, who were married last year after a long period of waiting. In accordance with the principles suggested by the Foundation, the new bedrooms are being designed as doubles, so that if Cupid's arrow strikes again, the bedroom will be suitable. For normal use, a light partition will create single bedrooms.

The Treorchy concert invariably attracts Toc H members from such places as Bristol, Bath, Swindon, Newbury and even London, and this year the tickets are priced at £1.25 (65p for senior citizens and students) and 75p (40p for senior citizens and students). Applications, with SAE please should be made to Reg Coates, 27 Sadler's Mead, Chippenham, Wilts SN15

3PB and cheques should be made out to 'Greathouse-Treorchy MVC Concert Account'. Chippenham Branch members look forward to seeing you.

Reg Coates  
Chippenham, Wilts

## A VISIT TO 'THEM'

Over a considerable period, at various meetings of the branch and District teams, many comments are always made about 'them' at Wendover and what 'they' are up to and what 'they' are doing down 'there'. To use modern terminology, this has 'bugged' me and I made a decision to visit Headquarters at Wendover to find out what really went on.

On arrival I was whipped into an office by a portly 'young' man who explained to me that he was the General Secretary and the welcome was warm and understanding, although he kept nervously tossing his pipe three or four feet into the air from time to time whilst we were talking — why I cannot imagine.

After being given some information about the organisation of the office at Wendover, I was then literally let loose to meet whom I wished and talk to anyone I came across and proceeded to do this asking as many awkward questions as I could think of. Disappointingly however, the more awkward the questions were, the more lucid the answers became and I was not able to get anybody into a situation whereby they had their backs to the wall, which rather disappointed me.

I met 'little uns', 'big uns', 'fat uns', 'thin uns' — all of them very busy, all of them very committed and above all, all of them seeming to have an inner satisfaction in the work being done.

I found there were many problems and difficulties which I had not hitherto appreciated and also many facets of work that Toc H is involved in which I had not learned about and this made my three day stay much more interesting.

It is so easy to say that it was a valuable and informative visit, which it was, but there was more to it than that; I found the spirit of what Toc H is all about in the offices and with the staff at Wendover and, above all, I found that much under used word 'love' was very apparent and epitomises to me what Toc H is all about.

I was glad to have had this opportunity, thankful to everyone at Wendover for being so kind and can only hope now that I shall be a better Toc H member for having had this experience.

James G Lewis  
Glenrothes, Fife



# NEWSPOINT

## FUND RAISING

Photo: Alec Wood



The residents of Mark 24, Liverpool, are finding money in books. Helped by local branches, they collected nearly 2,000 in a few weeks. Their first sale was at the Mold/Merseyside leisure exhibition in Chester in May where they raised £35. They are continuing with a series of Saturday book sales in the Mark. They hope to raise sufficient funds to finance children's Christmas parties and sponsored visits to Port Penrhyn by local youngsters and senior citizens. Here, six of the residents stand by their bookstall in Chester.

Photo: Wiltshire Newspapers, Swindon



Three of the models taking part in a recent fashion show at Wroughton in aid of Toc H funds. The lovely ladies (L to R) are: Anne Tucker (wearing a Claudie Amos dress in emerald green), Wendy Croft (in a ball gown of turquoise nylon voile) and Stella Neate (showing a cotton maxi dress).



Photo: Eastbourne Gazette and Herald

'Life is a Cabaret' A sparkling variety show staged recently at Hampden Park, East Sussex, raised some £40 for branch

funds. In the picture (L to R) are Mandy Brittain, Tina Brooker, Sean Witham, Jane Brittain and Debbie Everett.



Photo: Lancashire Evening Telegraph

What's happening in Accrington? One recent event was a coffee evening, tombola and raffle which raised £57.50 for group

funds. Here, 17 year old Gwen Hunter, Great Hakwood, is selling a tombola ticket to a happy customer.



# IN BRIEF...

■ Rushden, Northants, have given £250 to the British Diabetic Association. This sum, representing half the profit from their Spring Ball, brings Rushden's donations to the Association over the last three years to a total of £922.

■ Melton Mowbray, Leicester, Women's Branch are in the news. On Maundy Thursday they distributed 160 gifts among local hospital patients. A few weeks later, they handed over a bench seat to the borough as part of their contribution in the Silver Jubilee Year. Thanks to Melton Toc H, shoppers walking home from the town centre can now put their feet up!

■ Congratulations to Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire, branch which has just celebrated its 40th birthday. The branch welcomed present and past members at a rededication service conducted by the Branch Pilot, Fred Barrans, in the parish church. Tea was followed by a social evening during which many old friendships were renewed. The highlight of the evening was the re-counting of the long story of the branch by one of its most senior members Jimmie Guest. Jimmie told of the three wise men with Toc H badges whose meeting in a railway carriage started it all; of the growing pains of the branch and the struggles they had to keep going throughout World War 2. We are delighted to pass on Cheadle Hulme's message that their 'Light is still burning brightly'.

■ We offer our sincere congratulations to Commissioner Arnold Brown, the Salvation Army's Chief of Staff, who has been appointed the Army's new General and takes up his duties this month. It was Arnold Brown who arranged for the presentation of a Salvation Army award to Tubby at All Hallows in November 1971. Never before had this high award gone to anyone outside the Army. On that occasion Tubby asked for unceasing co-operation at all levels between Toc H units and the Army.

■ Dalton-in-Furness, Cumbria, members were proud to be associated with the recent visit of HM The Queen and Prince Philip to their town. The Queen launched HMS Invincible, built in the local shipyard where some of the branch members work. For the first time in the town's history, Toc H was included in the Mayor of Barrow's guest list for the reception in the town hall. Toc H was represented by Doreen Whitehead, a founder member of the local women's branch, who reports that she was questioned by Prince Philip who had spotted her Toc H badge!

■ We were visited recently by Angela Leng, chairman of the Buenos Aires Branch. The city has three branches, one of which (South Suburbs) works mainly with the mentally ill. Angela's own branch does hospital visiting but its main effort is fund raising throughout the year to provide a Christmas party for some 300 mentally ill citizens, a concert and Christmas party for deprived city children and gifts of Easter eggs to poor children from 'their Toc H aunties'!

■ Ali Sheppard, Wellingborough, Northants, writes to give the good news that a Toc H women's group has been started in the town. The group meets once a fortnight at present. Anyone interested should contact Ali at 1 Saxby Crescent, Wellingborough, Northants.

■ The Darlington men's section has a long standing commitment to befriend the residents of a local home for elderly people. They visit them regularly, run bingo sessions for them and for the past two years have organised trips to the town's annual pantomime. They provide the transport, of course, and, together with the women's section, give them a meal afterwards. These are only samples of their many sided work with the elderly. We congratulate Darlington who tell us they are not a large branch and 'not exactly a young branch'!

■ West Herts District, helped by members from Beaconsfield, organised an outing to Bekonscot Model Village for a party of East London children. The happy day ended with 51 fish and chip suppers at Hemel Hempstead laid on by local members, helped by the Watford branches!

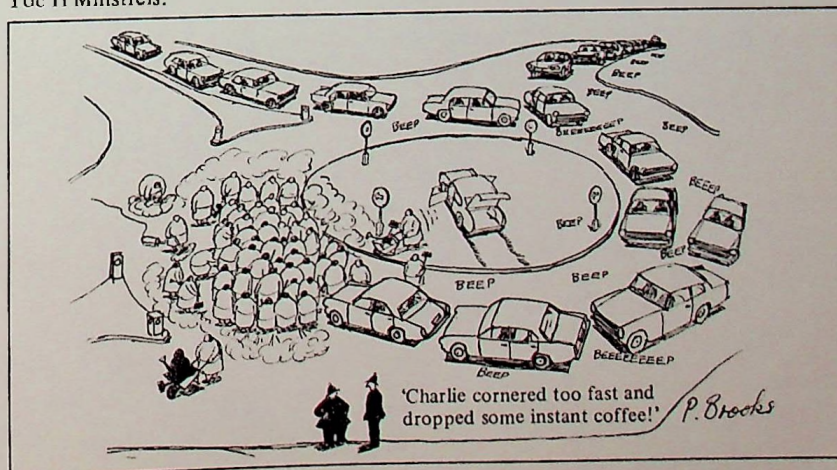
■ Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts, recently presented £720 to King's Mill Hospital to buy surgical instruments. The money was raised in eight months by the branch's Toc H Minstrels.

■ South East Kent District's recent training day was addressed by the General Secretary, Gilbert Francis. Gilbert's talk and the lively discussion which followed covered a wide field, including the contribution made by young people ('... they think right about Toc H') and the underlying aims of the Movement. ('... there may be changes in our thinking and in our methods - but *never* in our purpose!') The Dover team arranged the training day and those attending were 'fed and watered' by the Deal ladies.

■ Deal, Kent, joint branch have helped to launch a talking newspaper which now reaches 100 blind people. Using superb equipment provided by the branch chairman's son, a team of readers - several of them Toc H members - record edited extracts from the local paper. Cassettes are then duplicated and dispatched by the Kent Association for the Blind.

■ Bakewell, Derbys, report the coincidence of two golden weddings on consecutive days! Cyril and Vera Shirtcliffe celebrated on 18 April and Francis and Constance Wootton on 19 April. At the age of 79, Cyril has just been re-elected branch secretary! Until his serious illness a few years ago, Frank Wootton was a regular Bakewell speaker and a great helper in the branch's work with deprived Nottingham children.

■ Rhyl, North Wales, Toc H Holiday Centre is again fully booked for their season which ends on 2 October. This year, deprived children - most of them sponsored by local Toc H committees - will come from Manchester, Crewe, North Staffs, East Lancs, Derby and Belfast. For ten weeks the centre will be used by mentally handicapped patients from Cheshire and North Wales. By the end of the season, the centre will have handled over 1000 children and helpers.





# Thinking about **EXTENSION?**

## Think **POINT THREE**

Lots of people would join Toc H if they were told about it in the right way.

Have you ever considered how you describe Toc H and whether you can honestly say 'I'm in the know'?

## Help yourself and use **POINT THREE**

Every month the Movement's magazine produces pages of extension news, bright ideas, new personalities, fund-raising successes, overseas information, and much more.

It's the best way of knowing exactly what is going on and all for only 10p.

**POINT THREE** has been called the best magazine in the voluntary sector in Britain.

**KEEP IN THE KNOW. TAKE OUT A SUBSCRIPTION TODAY AND ORDER EXTRA COPIES FOR YOUR LOCAL CHURCHES, LIBRARIES AND SCHOOLS.**

### THE EASY WAY TO SUBSCRIBE.

To: Toc H Publications Department  
1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks.

Send me . . . . copies of **POINT THREE** each month for one year, starting with the next issue.

I enclose cheque/postal order for . . . . made payable to Toc H. (£1.20 for one annual subscription.)

Name . . . . .

Address . . . . .



## SMALL ADS

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 3p a word (minimum 30p) to Point Three magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks. Telephone: 0296 623911

Deal. Bed and breakfast, packed lunches if required. Close to sea and shops. Colour TV. Contact Lloyd, 18 Soudes Road, Deal, Kent for details.

Discover Somerset & Dorset. 15th/18th century licensed hotel offers a warm welcome, good food (home-baked bread, fresh produce, vegetarians welcome), easy-going atmosphere. Beautiful countryside all round, coast 14 miles, many interesting places to visit and explore. Write to The Old Parsonage, Crewkerne, or telephone Crewkerne 73516.



Bruges, Belgium. Hotel Jacobs (established 50 years) welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city within easy reach of other famous cities of art, and of the coast. Comfortable, modernised hotel. Quiet situation. Parking. English spoken. Strongly recommended. Bed and breakfast only. Mr Jules Lietaert, Hotel Jacobs, Baliestraat 1, Bruges 8000. Telephone: (050) 398 31/32.

Hotel Lybeer has welcomed Toc H parties and individuals since 1945. Centrally situated. Bed and breakfast only. Hotel Lybeer, Korte Vulderstraat 31, Bruges, Belgium.



North Buckinghamshire. For properties in the area between £26,000 and £6,000, please contact Bonner & Son, 12 Market Square, Buckingham. (Tel: 028 02 2301).

Raise funds quickly, easily. Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc gold stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford BD1 3HE.

Personalised Greetings Verse composed and typed for Birthday/Anniversary/Weddings, only 24p. Details: 'VERSE', 48 Ravens Way, Lee, London SE12.